

Appln. No. 10/071,684

Amendment dated April 1, 2004

Reply to Office Action mailed December 4, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1           1. (Currently Amended) A cable handling trailer system  
2 comprising:  
3           a trailer having a front end, a back end, and a pair of lateral  
4 sides;  
5           a lifting assembly for lifting ~~items~~ a spool of cable onto and  
6 off of the trailer and supporting the spool on the trailer between the  
7 front and back ends of the trailer, the lifting assembly being  
8 pivotally mounted on the trailer; and  
9           cable guiding means for guiding the movement of cable onto  
10 and off of the spool in a substantially horizontal orientation  
11 between the spool and the cable guiding means when the spool is  
12 supported on the lifting means, the cable guiding means being  
13 mounted on the trailer rearwardly of the lifting assembly for  
14 supporting a length of the cable in a rearward direction from the  
15 spool supported on the lifting assembly.

1           2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the cable guiding  
2 means comprises:  
3           a guide structure for engaging a portion of cable moving onto  
4 and off of the spool; and  
5           a boom structure mounted on the trailer for supporting the  
6 guide structure, the boom structure being pivotally mounted on the  
7 trailer such that the guide structure is movable along a path  
8 extending generally transverse to an axis of the trailer extending  
9 between the front and back ends of the trailer.

Appln. No. 10/071,684  
Amendment dated April 1, 2004  
Reply to Office Action mailed December 4, 2003

1           3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the boom  
2 structure has a proximal end pivotally mounted on the trailer and a  
3 distal end extending away from the back end of the trailer in a  
4 cantilevered manner.

1           4. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the guide  
2 structure comprises first and second rotatable members having  
3 circumferential surfaces positionable adjacent to each other for  
4 moving a portion of the cable positioned between the  
5 circumferential surfaces of the first and second rotatable members.

1           5. (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the first and  
2 second rotatable members are movable toward and away from each  
3 other such that the circumferential surface of the second rotatable  
4 member is abutable against the circumferential surface of the first  
5 rotatable member.

1           6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the  
2 lifting assembly comprises:  
3           an elongate pole for extending through a hole in a spool, the  
4 elongate pole having a pair of opposite ends; and  
5           a pair of support arms for supporting the elongate pole, the  
6 elongate pole being rotatably and releasably mounted on each of the  
7 support arms, each of the support arms being pivotally mounted on  
8 the trailer such that the support arms are pivotable between a  
9 transport position and a retrieve position, the transport position  
10 being characterized by the elongate pole being positioned ~~above the~~  
11 ~~deck~~ forward of the back end of the trailer, the retrieve position  
12 being characterized by the elongate pole being positioned behind the  
13 back end of the trailer;

Appln. No. 10/071,684

Amendment dated April 1, 2004

Reply to Office Action mailed December 4, 2003

1           7. (Original) A cable handling trailer system comprising:  
2           a trailer having a front end, a back end, and a pair of lateral  
3 sides;  
4           a lifting assembly for lifting items into and off of the trailer,  
5 the lifting assembly being pivotally mounted on the trailer; and  
6           control means for controlling the supply of power from the  
7 power supply to the lifting assembly, the control means including a  
8 housing for mounting at least one control thereon, the housing is  
9 movably mounted on the trailer for permitting movement of the  
10 housing between a storage position and an operational position.

1           8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the operational  
2 position is characterized by a portion of the housing extending  
3 rearwardly of the back end of the trailer and the storage position is  
4 characterized by the housing being positioned above the trailer.

1           9. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the control means  
2 further comprises a pivot mount pivotally connecting the housing to  
3 the trailer and having a pivot axis about which the housing pivots.

1           10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the control  
2 means further comprises a pivot arm extending between the pivot  
3 mount and the housing for spacing the housing from the pivot axis  
4 of the pivot mount.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

Appln. No. 10/071,684

Amendment dated April 1, 2004

Reply to Office Action mailed December 4, 2003

1           15. (Currently Amended) A cable handling trailer system  
2 comprising:  
3           a trailer having a front end, a back end, and a pair of lateral  
4 sides;  
5           a lifting assembly for lifting items into and off of the trailer;  
6 ~~the lifting assembly being pivotally mounted on the trailer; and~~  
7           a level winding assembly for guiding cable winding onto a  
8 spool when the spool is mounted on the lifting assembly, the level  
9 winding assembly ~~being laterally movable for guiding the cable~~  
10 ~~laterally with respect to the spool including a swing structure~~  
11 located on the trailer rearwardly of the lifting assembly, the swing  
12 structure being pivotally mounted on the trailer for pivot movement  
13 about a substantially horizontal axis to produce lateral movement of  
14 the swing structure in a substantially vertical plane transverse to the  
15 trailer.

1           16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 wherein the  
2 level winding assembly comprises:  
3           a base structure for removably mounting on the trailer; ~~a, the~~  
4 swing structure being pivotally mounted on the base structure ~~for~~  
5 ~~engaging a portion of the cable; and~~  
6           a swing actuator structure for pivoting the swing structure  
7 with respect to the base structure.

1           17. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the swing  
2 structure comprises:  
3           an arm having a lower end pivotally mounted on the base  
4 structure and an upper end;  
5           a head portion mounted on an upper end of the arm, the head  
6 portion having a plurality of rollers formed into a U-shaped  
7 configuration with an open top.

Appln. No. 10/071,684

Amendment dated April 1, 2004

Reply to Office Action mailed December 4, 2003

1           18. (Original) A cable handling trailer system comprising:  
2           a trailer having a front end, a back end, and a pair of lateral  
3 sides, the trailer including a deck with a top extending from a first  
4 one of the lateral sides of the trailer to a second one of the lateral  
5 sides of the trailer;  
6           a lifting assembly for lifting items into and off of the trailer,  
7 the lifting assembly being pivotally mounted on the trailer toward  
8 the back end of the trailer, the lifting assembly comprising:  
9           an elongate pole for extending through a hole in a spool, the  
10 elongate pole having a pair of opposite ends; and  
11           a pair of support arms for supporting the elongate pole, the  
12 elongate pole being rotatably and releasably mounted on each of the  
13 support arms, each of the support arms being pivotally mounted on  
14 the trailer such that the support arms are pivotable between a  
15 transport position and a retrieve position, the transport position  
16 being characterized by the elongate pole being positioned above the  
17 deck of the trailer, the retrieve position being characterized by the  
18 elongate pole being positioned behind the back end of the trailer.

1           19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 additionally  
2 comprising an auxiliary arbor support assembly for supporting an  
3 additional pole and spool, the auxiliary arbor support assembly  
4 being located on the pair of support arms at a location spaced from  
5 the pole removably mounted on the second ends of the pair of  
6 support arms.

Appln. No. 10/071,684

Amendment dated April 1, 2004

Reply to Office Action mailed December 4, 2003

1           20. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the auxiliary  
2 arbor support assembly comprises:  
3           a pair of supplemental hook members, each of the  
4 supplemental hooks being mounted on one of the support arms at a  
5 location spaced from the first and second ends of the support arms;  
6 and  
7           an additional post removably mounted on the supplemental  
8 hook members for supporting a spool.

1           21. (Original) A cable handling trailer system comprising:  
2           a trailer having a front end, a back end, and a pair of lateral  
3 sides;  
4           a lifting assembly for lifting items into and off of the trailer,  
5 the lifting assembly being pivotally mounted on the trailer; and  
6           a driving mechanism for controlling rotation of the spool, the  
7 driving mechanism comprising:  
8           spool engaging means for engaging at least one of the  
9 outer discs of the spool to rotate the spool; and  
10           supporting means for supporting the spool engaging  
11 means on the trailer.

1           22. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the spool  
2 engaging means comprises:  
3           a pair of laterally spaced wheels, each of the wheels having a  
4 circumferential surface for engaging a circumferential edge of one  
5 of the outer discs of the spool;  
6           a rotator axle rotatably mounted and having the laterally  
7 spaced wheels mounted thereon such that the laterally spaced wheels  
8 rotate with the rotator axle;  
9           a braking means for braking rotation of the rotator axle and  
10 the laterally spaced wheels; and

Appln. No. 10/071,684  
Amendment dated April 1, 2004  
Reply to Office Action mailed December 4, 2003

11 a motor coupled to the axle for rotating the rotator axle in two  
12 directions of rotation.

1 23. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the supporting  
2 means comprising:

3 a pivotal axle mounted on the trailer in a manner permitting  
4 pivot rotation of the pivotal axle about a longitudinal axis of the  
5 pivotal axle;

6 an upright member mounted on the pivotal axle and extending  
7 outwardly from the pivotal axle in a direction substantially  
8 perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the pivotal axis,

9 an actuating member having a first end and a second end, the  
10 first end of the actuating member being coupled to the trailer and  
11 the second end of the actuating member being coupled to the upright  
12 member; and

13 a pair of bars, each of the bars being elongate and having a  
14 first end and a second end, the first ends of the bars being coupled  
15 to the pivotal axle and the second ends of the bars being coupled to  
16 the rotator axle.

Appln. No. 10/071,684

Amendment dated April 1, 2004

Reply to Office Action mailed December 4, 2003

Please add the following claims:

1        24. (New) The system of claim 1 additionally comprising  
2 means located on the front end of the trailer for hitching the trailer  
3 to a vehicle so that the trailer is towable by the vehicle.

1        25. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the cable guiding  
2 means is pivotally mounted on the trailer to pivot about a  
3 substantially vertical axis and permit lateral movement of the length  
4 of cable in a substantially horizontal plane.

1        26. (New) The system of claim 18 wherein the trailer has  
2 wheels and an axis extending between the wheels of the trailer,  
3 wherein the elongate pole is supported substantially above the axis  
4 an axle of the trailer when the lifting assembly is in the transport  
5 position.

1        27. (New) The system of claim 18 wherein the lifting  
2 assembly is cantilevered forwardly over the deck in the transport  
3 position and is cantilevered backwardly from the back end of the  
4 trailer in the retrieve position.